

noncommissioned officer in Congress, this anniversary is a landmark that I am personally very proud of.

Three hundred seventy-five years ago today, on December 13, 1636, the Massachusetts General Court in Salem declared that all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 were required to join the militia. These men were called upon when needed, and we proudly continue this tradition of citizen service.

Today our National Guard soldiers are called upon to serve both here in our communities and around the world in support of our current overseas operations. Our Nation's citizen soldiers dedicate themselves to the defense of our Nation both here and abroad. I personally would like to thank all of my fellow Guardsmen for the job they are doing, and thank you to all of our men and women in uniform, and especially their families.

Thank you, happy birthday, and God bless.

LIHEAP

(Mr. BASS of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, the weather is cold in the Northeast. This year is no exception. In October, we had a huge snowstorm, an emergency declaration. Residents of the northern States—Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont—are over 80 percent dependent on heating oil. And we've depended—in the case of New Hampshire, 47,200 people—on the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. It is imperative that this program be adequately funded this year.

Mr. Speaker, the President, in his budget submission this year, proposed to cut LIHEAP funding by 50 percent. I urge our appropriators to do better than that this year because there are a lot of people in the Northeast that need this funding this year.

I urge support for adequate funding for low income energy assistance.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Human Rights Day.

This past Saturday, I was honored to speak in commemoration of Human Rights Day, a day chosen to honor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration was the world's first bill of rights.

When many from all corners of the globe were fighting for basic freedoms—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, people from fear and repression—the declaration assured them that they were fighting the good fight and they were on the right side of history.

Today I stand to recognize the men and women who are still fighting for these freedoms, including the seven democracy and land rights activists and 15 youth activists who have been illegally detained by the Vietnamese Government.

All individuals deserve the right to peacefully express their concerns. I call on my colleagues to stand side by side with these brave individuals and raise their voice in demanding that the Government of Vietnam release all prisoners of conscience and uphold their commitment to human rights for all.

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CREATING JOBS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote to extend critical provisions to help those seeking jobs, and we will do so without hurting job creators or adding to our national debt. Today's Tax Relief and Job Creation Act also extends the payroll tax holiday, preventing a tax increase on millions of Americans. I'm also very glad to see that we extend the doc fix for 2 years, preventing cuts that could lead many doctors to stop seeing Medicare patients. The bill also shows that the government doesn't have to spend money to create jobs; much of the time it just has to get out of the way.

The State Department has already declared that the planned route of the Keystone pipeline is the safest option, that the contractor is taking every safety precaution. We can see more than 120,000 jobs directly and indirectly created without a dime of taxpayer money.

Our bill proves that you don't need to raise taxes on some Americans to create jobs and provide essential benefits. We don't need to hurt job creators or add to future burdens in order to do the right thing.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY AND PROVIDING TAX RELIEF FOR MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I think we should prevent 160 million taxpayers from getting a lump of coal and a tax hike this year, but we should not undermine Social Security.

Last year, it was a mistake to take the 2 percent tax cut from Social Security and say we'll cover the losses from general funds. We should not allow a 1-year mistake to become a permanent attack on Social Security and on the livelihood of its beneficiaries.

Social Security should not be used as a rainy day fund or a political bar-

gaining chip. It should not be like another government agency that some years has a good budget and some years has the budget voted away.

President Roosevelt described it best. He said, "We put these payroll contributions there so as to give the contributors a legal, moral, and political right to collect their pensions. With those taxes in there, no damn politician can ever scrap my Social Security program."

Now, here's a way to handle the problem and to keep the mechanism of Social Security intact: Make the changes within the existing system. Let's cut the payroll tax for 160 million Americans but make up the lost revenue by temporarily eliminating the cap on wages taxed.

As much as we need economic stimulus now, we need Social Security for generations to come.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ). The Chair will remind Members to heed the gavel.

THE JOBS BILL

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, Americans have made their lists for the holidays. Drum roll, please.

Number 10, pass the doc fix for doctors who treat Medicare patients;

Number 9, continue the payroll tax holiday for American workers;

Number 8, approve the Keystone pipeline in the name of creating jobs;

Number 7, extend and reform employment benefits;

Number 6, repayment of subsidies and reduce all fraud, waste, and abuse;

Number 5, prevent the EPA from destroying jobs by onerous boiler MACT regulation;

Number 4, allow businesses to expense their costly purchases;

Number 3, include spectrum auctions for more broadband services;

Number 2, do all of this without adding to the deficit; and

Number 1, please create American jobs.

To my colleagues, don't be a grinch. Please help grant America's holiday wishes.

And to the President, make this your list, check it twice. America wants and needs jobs for the holidays.

HUNGER IN AMERICA

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we're the richest, most prosperous nation in the world, but 49 million Americans went hungry in 2009; 16 million were children. These numbers would be higher if it weren't for programs like